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22 MR. FULKERSON: Thank you. My name is Bob  
23 Fulkerson, and I'm the director of the Progressive  
24 Leadership Alliance of Nevada. For ten years I  
25 was director of a statewide environmental group

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1 called Citizen Alert. We worked on nuclear waste  
2 and nuclear weapons testing issues full time. And  
3 I spoke this morning about the "downwinders" and a  
4 little bit about Nevada and a littler bit about  
5 how lucky we are to live in a place that is  
6 sparsely populated, okay, because we don't like  
7 big crowds and because the desert is one of the  
8 most beautiful places on God's earth. But at the  
9 same time, it has so few advocates. And that's  
10 why my heart gets really warmed to see the people  
11 here from Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League  
12 and from WAND and from the number of -- and NERS  
13 (phonetically) and a number of other organizations  
14 that are here tonight speaking for a more sane  
15 process to deal with this problem of nuclear  
16 waste.

1... 17 [Last week the Congress, the Senate, turned  
18 down the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. And so in  
19 Nevada we're faced yet again with the likelihood  
20 of nuclear weapons explosions and, simultaneously,  
21 nuclear waste dumping within spitting distance --  
22 I mean, I've stood at the top of Yucca Mountain  
23 not in one of these fancy tours but just going up  
24 there on several occasions. And you do see the  
25 craters out there. We know the Department of

1 cont. 1 Energy is concerned about this because the  
2 original environmental assessment, which was done  
3 in 1984, says workers aren't going to be allowed  
4 in the underground waste dump when a nuclear test  
5 is being done, for safety reasons.

2... 6 [Speaking of shake and bake or the ground  
7 movement when nuclear waste is present, the  
8 earthquake issue continues to astound us Nevadans,  
9 and I was surprised to hear that there's no  
10 definitive answer that was given today about what  
11 standard the repository is going to be designed  
12 for, whether it's a 6.5 or whether it's other  
13 standards; those still haven't been made yet. And  
14 you know why? It's because the same thing, you  
15 know, that what we've heard earlier. Just like  
16 the ground water travel time, once they find that  
17 -- Standards are set, but once the mountain can't  
18 meet those standards, they go back and change the  
19 standards. Well, at least with earthquakes, you  
20 know, now you're not going to set them yet; first,  
21 you're going to see what the math would be, and  
22 then you're going to say, "Oh, our repository can  
23 withstand that." You know, also just last week,  
24 only a short distance from Yucca Mountain in the  
25 Mojave Desert, we had a 7.0 earthquake. High-rise

2 cont. 1 buildings in Las Vegas were evacuated. A train was  
2 forced off of its tracks.]

3... 3 [And on the transportation issue, I wanted to  
4 bring a little visual aid. We've heard that this  
5 thing is going to be incredibly safe, that it's  
6 been done before, no problems. Yet this is an  
7 unprecedented amount of nuclear waste hauling;  
8 it's never been done anywhere in the history of  
9 nuclear power or weapons production anywhere in  
10 the world. Yet we've found that only four people  
11 are going to die over this period of time. Well,  
12 you know, no technological wonder, from the  
13 Titanic to the Apollo moon rockets were pronounced  
14 safe by the experts, were pronounced safe by the  
15 experts. And, you know, later on there were big  
16 problems. And I think, again -- I talked about  
17 hubris this morning -- this afternoon. I think  
18 you have to have an awful lot of guts and  
19 arrogance to say "We've got this thing licked;  
20 there's not going to be any problems."

21 Let's talk about the funnel tunnel. It's a  
22 concept that we in Nevada would like the  
23 Department of Energy and the people representing  
24 nuclear power utilities that are so anxious to  
25 dump it in our state to get really familiar with.

3 cont. 1 You folks on the east are on this side of the  
2 funnel. We in Nevada are on this side. We're  
3 going to get the bulk of those shipments once it  
4 gets to us. It is going to be more concentrated.  
5 We will bear most of the risks and most of the  
6 responsibilities because we are a sparsely  
7 populated area.]

4 8 [Now, even in the case of a spill in which a  
9 minimal amount or no radioactivity is released,  
10 say near Las Vegas, there will be a chilling  
11 effect on our economic lifeblood, which is  
12 tourism. Now, nowhere in the document that we're  
13 talking about today does it say how Nevada's going  
14 to be compensated for these losses, just as we  
15 were never compensated for the "downwinders" or for  
16 bearing the burden of nuclear weapons testing for  
17 30 years.]

5... 18 [And then finally, after the huge task of  
19 hauling away and completing the excavation of the  
20 largest underground nuclear waste facility in the  
21 world, this dump is still planned to leak. It's  
22 going to, and the document says it. How much or  
23 how little depends on your interpretation of  
24 numbers or really what you believe, but the  
25 document clearly says that it's planned to leak.

5 cont. 1 And it will leak radioactive materials again, just  
2 like the nuclear weapons testing program did, into  
3 our air, into our land, into our water and  
4 eventually into humans and the animals that are  
5 out there.

6 You know, I think one of our problems in  
7 Nevada is our state motto is "All for our  
8 country." And we have more land under military  
9 control than any other state in the nation, more  
10 air space under military control than any other  
11 state in the nation. Our -- Of course, in the  
12 south you may not be happy about this, but our  
13 gold and our silver from the Virginia City mines  
14 financed the union. We have given a lot, and we  
6 15 have sacrificed a lot. [And there are alternatives  
16 to this program. There is an above ground dry-  
17 cask storage which, you heard this morning, even  
18 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has confidence  
19 can last for 50 to 100 years, during which time we  
20 can devote and step back and take some real  
21 scientific approach to this effort and not one  
22 that's such -- based on political expedience.]

23 We've been in the cross hairs of this program  
24 now for 25 years. Citizen Alert was started in  
25 1975, when your predecessors, the Energy Research

1 and Development Administration, said "We're going  
2 to put a surface facility at the Nevada test  
3 site." Hearings were held at Salt Lake City and  
7 4 at Germantown, Maryland. Well, at least you're  
5 getting better on the hearings angle and, I mean,  
6 at least there's more of them, although they're  
7 not as widely publicized as they should have been.  
8 I understand from talking with both The Atlanta  
9 Constitution and the Associated Press here they  
10 didn't receive any calls or information from the  
11 Department of Energy. I know that the hearings in  
12 Ely earlier this week -- there was one tiny little  
13 ad page in the newspaper. I think that your  
14 public relations people should do a lot more  
15 highlighting and trying to get the public to  
16 actually speak at these things and get them out  
17 than it should be to try to brainwash us into  
18 thinking what a great program it is and how safe  
19 we're all going to be because of it.

20 MR. LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

21 MR. FULKERSON: I would like to submit the  
22 funnel for the record. And actually, if we put it  
23 on the collective hat of the Department of Energy,  
24 they'll look like the tin man because they have no  
25 heart. But in any case, I would like to submit

1           this to you. Thank you for your time.

2                   MR. LAWSON: Our next speaker is Steve  
3 Goldly. Do I have that correct, Steve?

4                   MR. GOLDBERG: Goldberg.



5                   MR. LAWSON:  Goldberg.  And then Kay Kuck --  
6                   is that right? -- and then Elizabeth -- is it  
7                   Elizabeth Mitchell Curtis?  Okay, thank you.

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